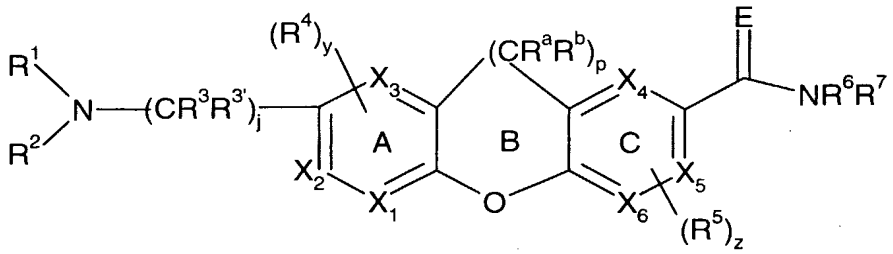
We claim:

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

j is 1 or 2;

y is 0, 1, or 2; and z is 0, 1, or 2;

p is 0, 1, or 2;

wherein E is O or NH; and wherein each of

X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5, or X_6, is C, CH, or N; provided that each of rings A or C has no more than 2 nitrogen atoms; and provided that Ring B has 0 or 1 double bond excluding tautomeric bonds from rings A and C;

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, phenyl, C_1-C_{10} alkylaryl, $C(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, SO_2C_1-C_8alkyl, SO_2C_1-C_8alkylNR^8R^8, $(CH_2)_nC(O)NR^8R^8$, SO_2C_1-C_{10} alkylaryl, SO_2C_1-C_8 alkylheterocyclic, C_4-C_{10} alkylcycloalkane, $(CH_2)_nC(O)OR^8$, and $(CH_2)_nC(O)R^8$; wherein each of the alkyl, alkenyl, and aryl groups are optionally substituted with one to five groups independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, phenyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, and $C(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl,; and wherein R^1 and R^2 may optionally combine with each other to form a 4, 5, 6, or 7-membered nitrogen-containing heterocycle which nitrogen -containing heterocycle may further have substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo, amino, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, phenyl, C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, $C(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, $CO(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, halo, C_1-C_8 haloalkyl;

R^3 and $R^{3'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, phenyl, aryl, C_1-C_8 alkylcycloalkyl, and C_1-C_8 alkylaryl;

R^a and R^b are each independently selected from hydrogen, and C_1-C_3 alkyl or combine with their respective carbon atoms to form the vinyl diradical -CH=CH-;

R^4 and R^5 are each independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, halo, C_1-C_8 haloalkyl, phenyl, aryl, C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, $(CH_2)_mNSO_2C_1$-C_8 alkyl, $(CH_2)_mNSO_2$phenyl, $(CH_2)_mNSO_2$aryl, -$C(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, and -$C(O)OC_1$-C_8 alkyl; wherein each R^4 and R^5 is attached to its respective ring only at carbon atoms; wherein m is 1 or 2; and n is 1, 2, or 3;

R^6 and R^7 are each independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, $C(O)C_1$-C_8 alkyl, SO_2C_1-C_8 alkyl, SO_2C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, SO_2C_1-C_8 alkylheterocyclic, aryl, C_1-C_8 alkylaryl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkane, C_1-C_6 alkylcycloalkane, $(CH_2)_nC(O)OR^8$, $(CH_2)_nC(O)R^8$, $(CH_2)_mC(O)NR^8R^8$, and $(CH_2)_mNSO_2R^8$; wherein each of the alkyl, alkenyl, and aryl groups are optionally substituted with one to five groups independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, phenyl, and C_1-C_8 alkylaryl; and wherein R^6 and R^7 may independently combine with each other, and with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached to form a 4, 5, 6, or 7-membered nitrogen containing heterocycle which nitrogen containing heterocycle may optionally have substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo, amino, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, phenyl, and C_1-C_8 alkylaryl;

R^8 is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, phenyl, benzyl, and C_5-C_8 alkylaryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, prodrug, tautomers, enantiomer, racemate, diastereomer, or mixture of diastereomers thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1 wherein the A-ring is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, pyridine, pyrimidine and pyrazine.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the C-ring is selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridine.

4. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the A-ring is phenyl and the C ring is pyridine.

5. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein both A and C rings are phenyl.

6. A compound according to claim 1 wherein p is 2 and both R^a and R^b are hydrogen.

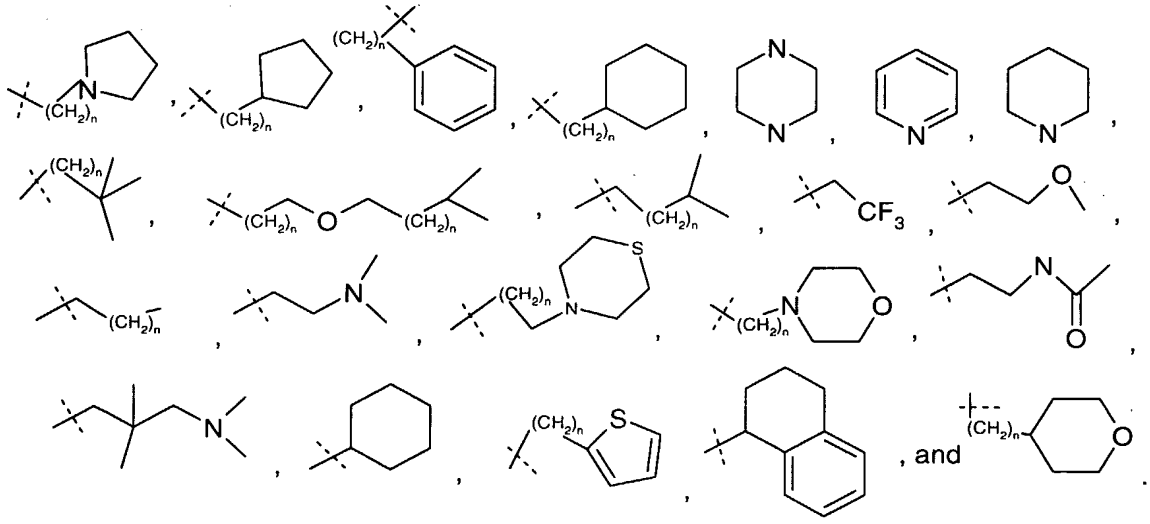
7. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein $-(CR^aR^b)_p-$ equals –CH=CH-.

8. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein E is an oxygen atom.

9. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein y is 0 or 1, and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, benzyl and ethoxy.

10. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein z is 0 or 1, and R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, and benzyl.

11. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, 2-methylpentyl, t-butyl, cyclopropyl, phenyl,



12. The compound according to Claim 1 wherein R^6 and R^7 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, and phenyl.

13. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein E is an oxygen atom, wherein both R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen atoms.

14. A compound selected from the group consisting of:
8-[(3-Methyl-butylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-(Isobutylamino-methyl)-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-[(4-Methyl-pentylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-[(2-Thiophen-2-yl-ethylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-Pentylaminomethyl-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-Hexylaminomethyl-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-[(Cyclohexylmethyl-amino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-Cyclooctylaminomethyl-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-Cycloheptylaminomethyl-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-[(Cycloheptylmethyl-amino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide trifluoroacetate salt,
8-{[2-(Tetrahydro-pyran-4-yl)-ethylamino]-methyl}-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-[(3,3-Dimethyl-butylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-[(2-Cyclopentyl-ethylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,
8-[(3-Morpholin-4-yl-propylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-[(3-Ethoxy-propylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-[(2-Diethylamino-ethylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-[(3-Methoxy-propylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide, and

8-[(3-Phenyl-propylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-(3-Phenyl-pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl)-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-(3-Phenyl-piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-[2-(4-Chloro-phenyl)-pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-(2-Phenyl-pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl)-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-(2-Phenyl-piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-(2-Phenyl-azepan-1-ylmethyl)-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-(2-Benzyl-pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl)-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[b,f]oxepine-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-[(3-Methyl-butylamino)-methyl]-dibenzofuran-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-[(3-Methyl-butylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-dibenzo[*b,f*]oxepine-2-carboxilic acid amide,

8-[(3-Methyl-butylamino)-methyl]-10,11-dihydro-5-oxa-4-aza-dibenzo[a,d]cycloheptene-2-carboxylic acid amide,

8-[(3-Methyl-butylamino)-methyl]-5-oxa-4-aza-dibenzo[a,d]cycloheptene-2-carboxylic acid amide,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, enantiomer, diastereomer and diastereomeric mixture thereof.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, racemate, mixture of diastereomers, or solvate thereof in association with a carrier, diluent and/or excipient.

16. A method for blocking a mu, kappa, delta or receptor combination (heterodimer) thereof in mammals comprising administering to a mammal requiring blocking of a mu, kappa, delta or receptor combination (heterodimer) thereof, a receptor blocking dose of a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer, racemate, mixture of diastereomers, or solvate thereof.

17. A method of treating or preventing obesity and Related Diseases comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I.

18. A method according to Claim 16 wherein the Related Diseases is selected from the group consisting of diabetes, diabetic complications, diabetic retinopathy, atherosclerosis, hyperlipidemia, hypertriglycemia, hyperglycemia, and hyperlipoproteinemia.

19. A method of treating and/or preventing diseases related to obesity including irritable bowel syndrome, nausea, vomiting, depression, smoking and alcohol addiction, sexual dysfunction, substance abuse, drug overdose, addictive behavior disorders, compulsive behaviors, and stroke comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I.

20. A method of suppressing appetite in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I.

21. Use of a compound of formula I in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or amelioration of the symptoms associated with obesity and Related Diseases comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I to a patient in need thereof.